DECEMBER 1948

FIREMEN

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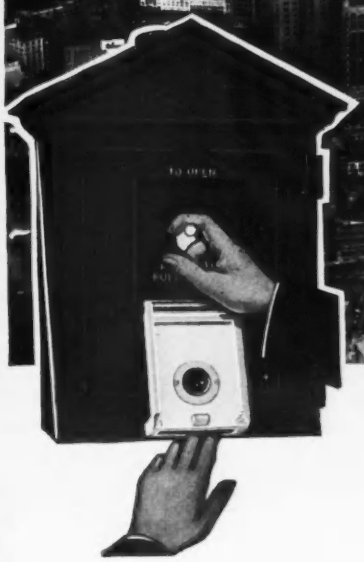

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Commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the founding by Peter Stuyvesant in 1648 of the country's first fire brigade, this new U. S. Postage Stamp honors America's volunteer firemen for "Unselfish Public Service — Courage — Duty."

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Mack joins in the salute to our fire fighting "Minute Men" . . . and their professional brethren, too . . . and pledges again its continuing contribution of the finest in modern fire apparatus.

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Firemen

Volume 15 Number 12

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Published monthly for the fire service members of the

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

A VOLUNTARY NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
60 BATTERYMARCH ST., BOSTON 10, MASS.

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Accounts of fires appearing in FIREMEN *are copies of or extracts from reports forwarded to the Association. This Association, as a body, is not responsible for the statements or opinions of any of its members.*

THE cover picture shows the destruction of the unsprinklered Farmers Elevator and Drier (rice plant) at Stuttgart, Arkansas, September 22, with loss of $160,000. In the absence of fire detection devices, the fire was first seen by a man out in the country who phoned to an insurance agent asking if there was a fire in Stuttgart. Shortly before apparatus arrived a man in the drier section noticed smoke and ran to phone an alarm. Other workmen were almost trapped as flames swept through the 4- and 5-story wood-frame, metal-clad buildings of the plant which included a rice drier under construction. Six 2½-in. and two 1½-in. lines were supplied by four pumpers and a deluge set was used after firemen were driven from the building. Rupture of a natural gas line and burning and explosion of acetylene from welding cylinders reportedly intensified the fire.

FOR many years fire department rule books have contained a provision that full paid firemen could not accept other employment on their off time. With manpower shortages accompanying the war, this rule was relaxed in many localities. With the advent of the 48- and 56-hour work week for firemen in many communities the question of firemen working on their off time is again a subject for considerable discussion. The contention on one hand is that firemen are emergency workers and must be available for recall in the event of a major fire or emergency and also that having secure employment any outside work on the part of firemen may tend to ursurp opportunities for work of tradesmen who must pay municipal taxes directly or indirectly but who do not have the job security enjoyed by fire fighters.

Firemen counter that as free citizens their rights as to employment or work should not be abridged and that the interest of the fire department is served provided that each man reports for duty mentally and physically ready to perform the emergency duty that may be encountered during his tour of duty. If any fireman is too fatigued to perform his assigned duty that should be a matter for individual discipline. They contend that many experts in municipal government and budgetary matters, who oppose the fireman's right to outside employment, very frequently receive income as consultants or as writers from sources other than their salaries as municipal or organizational employees.

The conclusion to the matter would seem to be that where a municipality desires to stipulate that its paid firemen should not accept outside employment, the municipality must assume the responsibility of providing a pay scale for the fire fighting service that will enable each fire fighter to meet his financial obligations in this period of higher living costs without seeking additional work. Fire departments with pay scales that have not been adjusted adequately to meet post war costs must expect that firemen of necessity must turn part of their time and attention to channels that will produce supplemental income essential to the welfare of their families.

IS your department all set to fight fire before the gaze of a million or more spectators? In years past fire lines have been stretched to hold back the crowds at the fire grounds but now the eye of the television camera is very likely to be on hand at major fires. There is nothing much more newsworthy than a spectacular fire and the mobile television van may be expected to roll up with the second alarm apparatus.

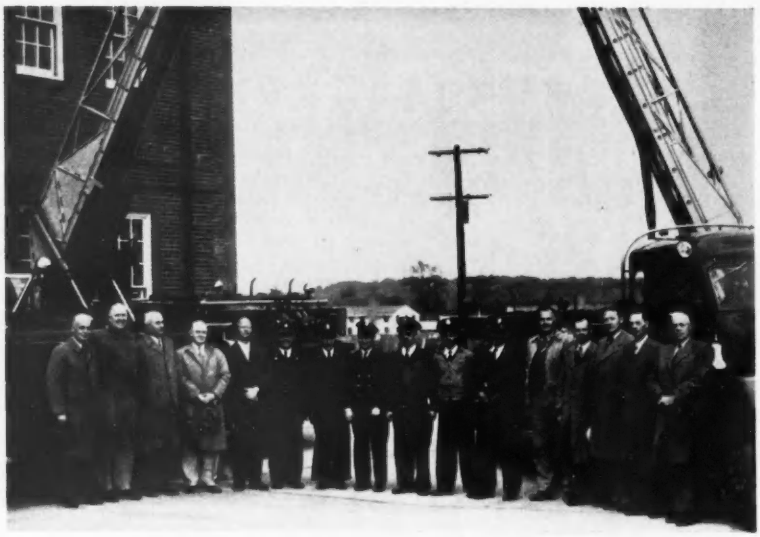
Not only will multitudes of persons in their snug warm homes watch firemen battle flames this winter, but fellow firemen in other departments not affected by a blaze will be able to watch the performance. There may be remarks such as "Why don't they ventilate?", "Where are the heavy streams?" or "Who taught them how to handle ladders?"

Thus television on the fire grounds presents each department with a tremendous public relations challenge. The television reporters will want to know why the firemen are opening the roof, and what each company in view is doing. Some responsible fire officer should be detailed to get the fire department's story across. A good report from the fire grounds can go far toward informing the public at television receivers as to why the department needs more men, new apparatus, and various items of equipment that have all too often met the economy knife behind closed doors at budget pruning sessions.

Joint Evolutions Committee Photographs Ladder Evolutions

FOR several years a "Joint Evolutions Committee" including representatives of the Firemen's Training Committee of the National Fire Protection Association, the Fire Department Instructors' Conference, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs has been at work photographing various training evolutions that can be recommended as safe and practical methods of performing basic fire fighting operations.

The project was the result of a conference held by representatives of the three organizations during March 1946 at Memphis, Tenn. Actual photography began with the work of photographing various ladder evolutions. This work was carried on at the fire training building of the University of Maryland at College Park, with the cooperation of several Maryland fire departments which furnished men and equipment. Photography was ably handled by Photographer H. F. Rothery of the District of Columbia Fire Department with the cooperation of Chief Clement Murphy. Final work of photographing ladder evolutions was completed by the committee during the week of October 18. It is expected that the completed manual of photographs of ladder evolutions will be ready for presentation at the Fire Department Instructors' Conference and the NFPA Committee of Firemen's Training, both of which meet at Memphis next month. It is anticipated that the photographs will find widespread use in various state drill manuals and in fire training texts issued by national and regional fire service organizations. The NFPA expects to issue the manual as a publication approved by the Committee on Firemen's Training.



Participants in the Joint Evolutions Committee conference (representing the NFPA, FDIC, and IAFC) held at the University of Maryland, College Park, October 18-20, 1948. Left to right: Richard E. Vernor, Manager, Fire Prevention Department, Western Actuarial Bureau; Emmett T. Cox, Western Actuarial Bureau; Asst. Chief Forrest Lucas, Dayton, Ohio; Roi Woolley, Associate Editor, FIRE ENGINEERING; Chief Everett Hudiburg, Stillwater, Okla.; Captain L. A. Watson, Hyattsville Fire Dept.; L. A. Watson, Jr., Hyattsville Fire Dept.; Albert Gatley, Glen Echo Fire Dept.; Chief T. W. Scott Jr., Cottage City Fire Dept.; H. L. McCornick Jr., Cottage City Fire Dept.; W. Spittle, Cottage City Fire Dept.; H. F. Rothery, Photographer, District of Columbia Fire Dept.; Warren Y. Kimball, Editor, FIREMEN; W. A. Ross, Consultant U. S. Office of Education, Chairman, NFPA Committee on Firemen's Training; Chief W. M. Walton, Alabama Fire Instructor; Chief James W. Just, Director Fire Service Extension, University of Maryland.

NFPA Holds Northeastern Regional Conference at Hartford

THE Second Northeastern Fire Protection Conference was held in Hartford, October 28-29. Some 300 NFPA members who attended enjoyed a full two-day program crammed with items of timely interest. Panel discussions by fire chiefs, state fire marshals, and city fire prevention committee chairmen, were particularly interesting.

This is the first of a number of such conferences to be held in various parts of the country to bring NFPA activities to members who cannot attend the Annual Meetings. Of particular value were four committee conferences held simultaneously on Friday afternoon at which NFPA members were able to discuss their problems with the NFPA committees on Safety to Life from Fire, Flammable Liquids and Gases, Special Extinguishing Equipment, and Air Conditioning and Blower Systems.

Connecticut's Governor, James C. Shannon, welcomes NFPA members to the NFPA Northeastern Fire Protection Conference at Hartford, October 28-29. Seated; NFPA President John L. Wilds of Chicago, and John Ashmead of the Hartford committee of arrangements for the meeting.

Panel discussing "The Fire Chiefs' Dilemma" or the problem of financing adequate municipal fire protection. Left to right: Leslie Gravlin, Governmental Research Institute of Hartford, Chief William H. Hill, Belmont, Mass.; Percy Charnock, N. E. Fire Insurance Rating Assn.; Chief Paul Heinz, New Haven, Conn.

Panel on "Developments in Fire Waste Control." Left to right: M. M. Brandon of Underwriters' Laboratories who spoke on "Electrical Hazards"; A. G. Smith, Chief Engineer, Travelers Fire Insurance Co., who spoke on "Inspection Problems"; and John B. West, Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Cos., who spoke on "Water Supplies for Fire Fighting," and pointed out that in many communities supplies are inadequate and average pressures are low due to failure of water systems to keep pace with community growth and demand.

Fatal Oil Field Fire at Inglewood, California

A FLASH fire on September 15 destroyed a small crude oil tank installation adjacent to an oilfield area in Inglewood, Calif., co-incident with a vapor flash that set fire to a nearby trailer camp causing three fatalities and some sixteen injuries. The initial flash occurred in a vapor cloud which drifted into the trailer camp some 200 ft. downwind. Ignition apparently occurred from some lanterns about a street excavation, and the flash spread through the vapor, setting fire to the trailers and to the oil tank which was the source of the vapor. After the initial flash the fire within the oil plant burned itself out under the control of water fog and foam and was confined within the earthen dike around the tank group.

The fire completely destroyed sixteen 1500 barrel flow tanks, and six trailers at the trailer camp. A large quantity of vapor and oil spray was liberated from a tank containing crude oil from a newly completed well. It appears that during a dehydration process, mud and emulsion, possibly due to the introduction of gas into the tank, may have prevented normal heat circulation, permitting bottom water to superheat causing violent boiling and expansion of the oil.

Vapors and oil spray were observed at the vent stack and gauge hatch, followed by separation of roof and shell. There was an appreciable time interval between the initial vapor release and the flash during which time manual controls were operated and boiler fires were extinguished. Oil froth covered about one-third of the dike enclosure and fire initially enveloped five or six tanks. One or two tanks quickly exploded with sufficient violence to wreck the roofs.

Ignition occurred at 1:09 P.M. and aluminum roofs on six tanks burned off almost immediately but only one of these tanks contained much oil. Shells of all six ultimately crumpled. During the fire three adjoining tanks with steel roofs had roof failures and one tank boiled over several times.

Burning of 16 crude oil tanks at Inglewood, California, following explosion which fatally burned two women and a child in trailer camp shown in left center of photograph.

Los Angeles Times

Acme

Due to limited water supplies necessitating comparatively small streams, firemen fought this blaze from such close range that "some of their helmets were partly burned or melted."

Fire fighting by municipal firemen was hampered by several factors. The tanks set on the brow of a hill with steep banks dropping from the upwind sides making operations difficult and dangerous. Hydrants were widely spaced requiring long lays, mostly by hand. There were adequate pumpers and six 2½-in. lines were laid, but initially there was less than 1000 gpm available although later this was increased to perhaps 1300 gpm.

Since 1-in. and 1⅛-in. nozzle tips had to be used, range of stream was inadequate to reach inside and downwind tanks. Seam gaskets burned out and within half an hour burning oil covered the entire enclosure. Although it entailed taking a terrific beating, firemen stayed close enough to make good use of the streams of limited range. They prevented roof failures and resultant open fire which would have caused heat wave formation and boilover of seven tanks. Seam leaks eventually emptied these tanks.

About 8 P.M. air foam application was made but nothing was accomplished due to the intensity and size of the fire over the entire compound, and because water for foam production was available only at the expense of cooling streams and without these oil leaks and vent fires rapidly intensified. Air foam application was complicated by plugging of pickup tubes by crystalline sediment in the bottom of the cans. Water being drained and siphoned from the levee was nearly boiling and useless for foam production, and was too hot to be practical for hose stream use.

One serious boilover forced abandonment of two hose lines which were lost but fortunately the ground at this point was relatively flat and the men escaped.

About 4 A.M. the oil flow from leaking seams had stopped and the fire area was somewhat reduced. Air and chemical foams were used to blanket the entire area: 16,000 lbs. of chemical and 1500 gallons of air foam were used. The unique finale was extinguishment of persistent vapor fires at seams by use of dry powder hand extinguishers from a duck boat used to reach locations inaccessible to hose streams.

Lessons of this fire indicate need of emergency venting where tanks are adjacent to residential areas. There is also need for prompt warning and evacuation of endangered persons. It should be noted that this was not a mere storage installation but consisted of "flow tanks" for a crude oil field. The limitations of aluminum tank roofs and of bolted tank construction depending upon gaskets for tightness is also apparent, as is the need for good drainage to prevent oil spills from enveloping tankage.

Blueprint for U. S. Civilian Defense

Fire Departments May Expect Increased State Direction as Official Plans Put Civil Defense Phase of National Security up to the States

A BLUEPRINT for civil defense in the United States was issued last month which recognizes the importance of fire as a problem of defense. It also describes the roles which fire departments throughout the nation, both paid and volunteer, will play in the civil defense phases of national security. Every fire department should obtain and study the proposals made in a 300-page report entitled "Civil Defense for National Security" prepared by the U. S. Office of Civil Defense Planning for Secretary of Defense James Forrestal. Russell J. Hopley, an Omaha telephone company executive, as Director of the Office of Civil Defense Planning, put the report together with the assistance of a technical staff set up for the purpose. During its preparation, Chief Frank McAuliffe of the Chicago Insurance Patrols, a Director of NFPA, and president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs served as Fire Adviser to Mr. Hopley. Acknowledgment is also made in the report to the assistance of a panel of eight fire chiefs and 13 other fire experts which met with Chief McAuliffe during the past summer. This group was pictured in the August, 1948, issue of FIREMEN magazine.

Prominent phases of fire problems are given attention in sections of the report devoted to Radiological Defense, Chemical Defense (which covered incendiaries), Engineering Services (which covered protective construction and city planning), Rescue Services, Mutual Aid and Mobile Reserve, Plant Protection, Research and Development, and the Fire Services. "Fire Services in the Civil Defense Program" was only one of some 21 sections of the report so it is necessary to review all the subjects covered to fit the fire problems into their proper perspective.

State Organization

Under the plan outlined by the report, actual responsibility for civil defense and most of its operation is clearly put up to the states. A National Office of Civil Defense is recommended, but its proposed functions are to be largely in planning and coordination. For the states a Suggested Model Organization for Civil Defense is described. Under the Governor is proposed a State Director of Civil Defense and five deputy directors. A list of the divisions assigned to the deputies in the model plan follows. In it, existing state dpeartments which will tie into the civil defense organization are shown in parenthesis:

MODEL FOR STATE ORGANIZATION FOR CIVIL DEFENSE

Deputy Director for:

- Fire Services Division (Office of State Fire Marshal)
- Warden Services Division
- Police Services Division (Office of State Police)
- Plant Protection Division
- Mutual Aid and Mobile Reserve Division
- (Adjutant General's Department or State Guard)

Deputy Director for:

- Engineering Division (Department of Public Works and Buildings or Engineering)
- Communications Division
- (Department of Highways)
- Air Raid Warning and Aircraft Observers Division
- (Department of Health — certain functions)
- Transportation Division

Deputy Director for:

- Medical and Health Services Division (Department of Health — certain functions)
- Radiological Defense Division
- Other Special Weapons Defense Division
- Chemical Defense Division
- (Department of Agriculture — certain functions)

Deputy Director for:

- Civilian War Aid Division (Department of Public Welfare)
- Evacuation Division
- (Department of Agriculture — certain functions)

Deputy Director for:

- Administration Division
- Training Division (Department of Education)
- Planning Division
- (Office of the Attorney General)
- Public Information Division

Local Civil Defense

The local organization for civil defense recommended by the report would follow the pattern of local government. In each city, the existing fire department would be the Fire Services Division of the city or town civil defense organization. The report mentions the possibility that fire departments in a metropolitan area might be consolidated into a single department, but does not make a definite recommendation on the subject. Provisions of a Model State Civil Defense Act presented with the report, however, are such that there would be no difficulty in consolidating the fire departments or any of the other civil defense units in a metropolitan area within the state. For metropolitan operations the report suggest a central Civil Defense Council for policy-making the members of which would normally be the mayors of the communities in the metropolitan area. Governors would be empowered, where desired, to appoint a civil defense director for a metropolitan area.

Radiological Defense

In World War II, civil defense schools gave instruction in connection with high explosive bombs, incendiary bombs and chemical agents. Now civil defense has to consider additional hazards of the atom bombs and other special weapons. Atom bombing will present new radiological hazards which are described in the civil defense report.

The radiological hazards are the presence of gamma rays, neutrons, beta particles and alpha particles which behave like the familiar X-rays and penetrate the human body and cause injury to living tissue. The report frankly admits that these rays will cause large loss of life. It describes techniques for detecting the presence of radio-contamination and what can be done by simple procedures like disposing of contaminated clothing and washing the human body.

Incendiary Attack

The report recommends that the strategic vulnerability of our cities to incendiary attack be determined. This approach, the report says, would give fire chiefs a good idea of the fire problems created by an air attack with incendiaries so that defense operations could be planned against it.

City Planning and Zoning

Considering spaciousness of the United States, the report observes that its population and industry are concentrated in congested areas. This makes the nation vulnerable to weapons of mass destruction. Civil defense, it says,

should be concerned with the disposal of population and with relocation of industries. It recommends city planning and that zoning ordinances and building codes be revised to give greater stress on dispersion of hazardous and congested areas and to promote good spacing of buildings and fire resistive construction.

Controversial Matters

It is hardly to be hoped that a civil defense report would dispose of all matters in a way satisfactory to everyone. A good many specific criticisms could be directed against the report, both as a whole and in details. On the basis of observed experience in civil defense matters, the treatment of such subjects as mortuary service, fire guard (first aid fire fighting) service, and emergency water service is sketchy. The problem of operations in metropolitan areas is not settled. Fire chiefs would like to have seen in the report reference to the problem they have had in two world wars of seeing their forces decimated by haphazard recruitment to the armed forces and demoralizing veterans' preference following the war.

Nevertheless, the report has dealt valiantly with many of the troublesome problems which arise in providing civil defense for national security. In the biggest problem of all, that the states rather than the federal government primarily handle civil defense, the report's position is courageous and sound. If carried out, it will avoid top-heavy and unrealistic administration. It carries out the logical principle of self-help so that civil defense will not be the straw that breaks the camel's back in measures for national security.

Congressional Action

It has been possible in the space available to give only the briefest kind of treatment of the recommendations for the proposed civil defense set-up. The report presents a plan which must be acted on by the Congress. While the Congress could conceivably recommend something radically different, it is likely that the proposed plan will be the principal basis for its action. There will be time for study of the proposed plan and the development of details.

The Office of Civil Defense Planning is being continued for interim work on civil defense plans. Chief McAuliffe has arranged for a new Fire Adviser who will succeed him on the staff of that office this month. The new Fire Adviser is Carl Dreesen, a former Battalion Chief of the New York City Fire Department and a member of the NFPA.

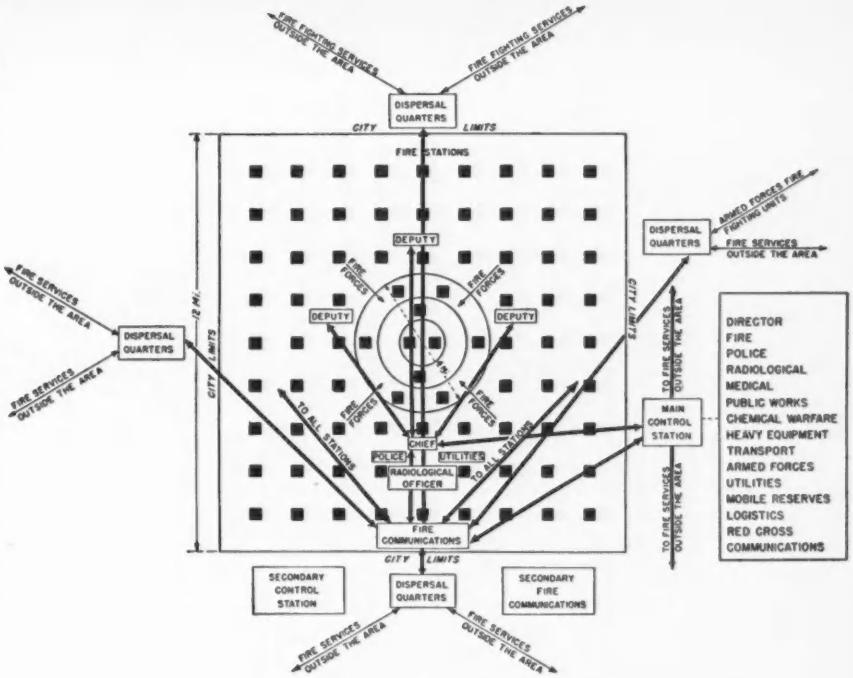


Diagram of fire services operation as envisaged for a large city as a part of civil defense. Black squares are fire stations which in practice would not be symmetrically distributed. Diagram shows dispersal quarters to which some part of the fire forces would move on air raid warning, primary and secondary fire communications centers and the civil defense control center.

Minimum of 50,000 Men in 100 Civil Defense Mobile Reserve Battalions Proposed for States

ONE of the most spectacular recommendations of the report on Civil Defense for National Security issued last month by the Secretary of Defense is a proposal for the organization by the states of mobile reserve battalions of civil defense workers.

It is assumed that in a disaster, or an attack with atomic bombs or other weapons, that local civil agencies and local civil defense organizations may be wiped out by the disaster or attack. The mobile reserves are to be available to move in to make up these losses. Each of the proposed mobile reserve battalions will be a completely organized and equipped force capable of moving in with its own communication facilities, ground and air transportation, and set up to perform the needed civil defense functions. The report shows a table of organization suggesting that these battalions be composed of approximately 500 men each. Of this number, 45 men would comprise a fire services unit — several fire fighting companies under a chief officer.

These battalions are to be state forces, primarily set up, operated and trained by the State Civil Defense Organization and subject only to direction by the governor of the state. It is suggested that the states organize as many of these battalions as seem necessary to take care of situations within the state. The states would bear the entire expense of such battalions, reimbursing political subdivisions of the state for losses to equipment contributed by such divisions, but not the pay of employees assigned by political subdivisions to such units. In peacetime, such units may be sent outside the state only under reciprocal mutual aid pacts with the states aided.

It is proposed to ask for Congress for legislation so that in time of war the federal government may pay the claims for the expenses of interstate operation of the mobile reserves. While they would move only on order of the governors of the states, by agreement, regional directors of civil defense would coordinate their movement. It is recommended that the states organize a minimum of 100 battalions to be subject to interstate use under federal direction in time of war. Battalions organized for this interstate war service would work closely with the respective Army commands and would wear uniforms prescribed by the National Office of Civil Defense.

It is proposed that a Mutual Aid and Mobile Reserve Division of the National Office of Civil Defense be charged with the promotion of mutual aid pacts between states. This is perhaps the most immediately useful part of the proposed setup as such pacts would have immediate application to peacetime emergencies.

Ten Years of Fire Protection Training at Oklahoma A. & M. College

By R. J. Douglas, Associate Professor of Fire Protection
Member, NFPA Committee on Firemen's Training

College Fire Station, Oklahoma A. & M. College

IN September of 1938, just 10 years ago, Oklahoma A & M College launched its new Fire Protection Course in the School of Technical Training. With the exception of the War years 1942 to 1947, students interested in making fire protection their life's work have been given special training in their selected fields.

The Fire Protection course requires 2 years of intense study for completion and was developed to afford specialized training in:

1. Detecting and eliminating fire hazards and causes through periodic inspections, remedial advice, and systematic follow-up.
2. Conducting year around fire prevention programs.
3. Determining amount, type and location of fire protection equipment to afford adequate protection.
4. Installing, testing, adjusting, and maintaining fire protection equipment.
5. Applying modern methods of industrial and municipal fire fighting technique.

The Fire Protection curriculum, in addition to the specialized subjects, includes directly related academic subjects such as English, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Mechanical Drawing, and Public Speaking as well as related technical subjects such as Internal Combustion Engines, Electricity, Safety Engineering, Air Conditioning Equipment, Heating Equipment and Property Insurance.

The complete Curriculum follows:

First Semester		Hrs. per wk. Theory	Hrs. per wk. Lab.	Sem. Hrs. Credit
English 113	Freshman English	3	0	3
Math 173	College Algebra	3	0	3
Chem. 114	General Chemistry	3	3	4
M. E. 112	Engineering Drawing	0	6	2
Tech A 102	Fire Extinguishers Maintenance	1	3	2
Tech A 111	Fire Fighting Practices I	0	3	1
Tech A 112	Fire Hazards & Causes	1	3	2
		11	18	17
Second Semester				
English 203	English Composition	3	0	3
Math 183	Plane Trigonometry	3	0	3
Chem. 124	General Chemistry	3	3	4
Psy. 213	Introductory Psychology	3	0	3
Tech A 121	Fire Fighting Practices II	0	3	1
Tech A 122	Fire Protection Organization	1	3	2
Tech A 132	Principles of Fire Inspection	1	3	2
		14	12	18
Third Semester				
Speech 202	Essentials of Public Speaking	2	0	2
Arch. 372	Mechanical Equip. of Bldgs	2	0	2
Physics 114	Mechanics and Heat	3	2	4
Tech M 114	Internal Combustion Engines	2	6	4
Tech A 211	Fire Fighting Practices III	0	3	1
Tech A 212	Fire Prevention	1	3	2
Tech A 232	Fire Inspection Practices	1	3	2
		11	17	17
Fourth Semester				
Physics 124	Electricity, Light and Sound	3	2	4
Bus.Ad.353	Property Insurance	3	0	3
Engr. 431	Safety Engineering	0	3	1
Tech 214	Essentials of Electricity	3	3	4
Tech A 222	Fire Fighting Tactics	1	3	2
Tech A 292	Fire Protection Hydraulics	1	3	2
Tech A 302	Automatic Sprinkler Protection	1	3	2
		12	17	18

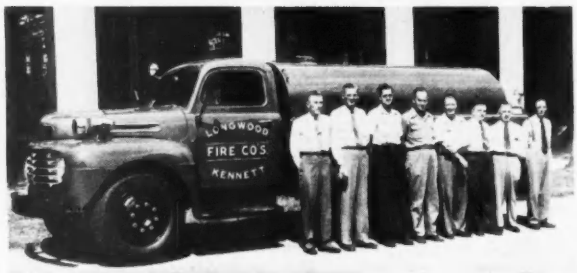
The demand for graduates is much greater than the school can supply and a review of a partial list of former students shows that they are serving the field of Fire Protection in the following positions:

Municipal Fire Captain	7
Sprinkler Installation	3
Municipal Assistant Fire Chief	2
Municipal Fire Prevention	2
Industrial Fire Protection	2
Fire Protection Equipment Sales	2
Industrial Fire Protection and Safety	2
Insurance Inspection	2
Municipal Fire Chief	1
Airfield Crash Captain	1
Fire Insurance Sales Engineer	1
Division of Fire Safety (State)	1
CAA Department of Safety	1

A fire protection research program is carried on in connection with the school and plans to expand that phase of the work in the immediate future are being considered. The second term opens January 29, 1949, and students interested should make application to:

PROF. H. P. ADAMS, *Director*
School of Technical Training
Oklahoma A & M College, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Two Volunteer Fire Companies Jointly Own Tank Truck for Rural Fire Fighting Service



The new 1200 gallon water tank truck of the Longwood-Kennett fire companies with the committee that arranged for its purchase. Left to right: Chief Louis Jacoby, Longwood; Captain Thomas Kelly, Kennett; Assistant Chief Elwood Green, Kennett; Chief Joseph Stabler, Kennett; Financial Secretary Morton Pratt, Longwood; Secretary James Findley, 2nd, of Kennett Township Supervisors; Captain F. Llewellyn Hanway, Longwood; and former Assistant Chief William Warfel, Sr., of Kennett.

A NEW 1200 gallon water tank has been purchased jointly by the Longwood Fire Company and the Kennett Fire Company No. 1 of Chester County, Pennsylvania. The Longwood company is located at The Longwood Farms, Inc., a large conservatory. This volunteer fire company has a 500 gpm pumper with 200 gallon water tank. The new tank truck is housed with this company. The Kennett Fire Company No. 1 is located on U. S. Route 1, in the Borough of Kennett Square. This volunteer company has two trucks, a 500 gallon rural pumper with 200 gallon tank and a 1,000 gpm pumper for borough service.

The new truck was purchased as a water carrier and not as a fire truck but is equipped with booster hose, suction hose, and a Hale FZZ portable pump which can be used to supply the tank.

A Disaster Plan for Your Community

A DISASTER, if it occurs, may be too big for one community to handle. However, the elements of a disaster plan are such that it is possible to start with any unit: municipality, industrial plant, or county. If you have a good plan for dealing with big fires, many of its elements will also fit floods, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes and other catastrophes. If you think war is just around the corner, your disaster plan provides a useful basis for civil defense organization. Such a plan is almost certain to fit in with anything worked out for a larger area.

As would be expected, the Texas City explosions and fires last year created a good deal of interest in disaster plans in Texas. Various organizations in that state have been working with state and local officials and others in developing plans. At the National Safety Congress in Chicago in October, the elements which go into a plan were described by Mr. G. M. Kintz, Supervising Engineer of the U. S. Bureau of Mines in Dallas, Texas. Mr. Kintz outlined a plan which was developed by the Texas Chapters of the American Society of Safety Engineers and the Texas Safety Association.

He does not say this is the best plan that could be developed, but he thinks it gives the industrial safety man, the industrial fire fighter and their counterparts in public agencies, something to think about and a method of reviewing what they have to work with.

Direction

THE direction of a disaster plan is in the hands of the principal executive official. In a statewide plan it would be the governor. In a county plan it would be the county commissioner or supervisor. In a town or city it would be the mayor, city manager or other top executive. In an industrial plan it would be the plant manager. It is suggested that this executive be assisted by a 3-man executive committee, selected to provide a few persons with whom the executive could immediately confer and to function until a detailed disaster plan can be worked out.

Disaster Control Committee. Direction of a plan should be put in the hands of some agency. What this agency is called it not important. It may be a committee, may be a board, or something else. As a practical matter, what it is called will be determined by local custom and practice and how the details of the plan are worked out.

In a state-wide plan a Disaster Control Committee would bring together the heads of appropriate state departments' including the state fire marshal, the state department of safety (police), department of health, state public utility department and other state agencies. In a plan for a town, the Disaster Control Committee will have appropriate representatives of these state agencies and also a number of others. Mr. Kintz suggests that for this purpose the following be considered: the industry or industries involved, the American Red Cross, federal agencies (Army, Air Force, Coast Guard, FBI and others), hospitals and medical associations and, in waterfront cities, the dock board or port authority. This is not an exclusive list, as in some locations others might be tied into the work of the local Disaster Control Committee.

Executive Secretary. A disaster plan is only useful if there is someone to keep it up to date and going. It is therefore suggested that some one individual be assigned as executive secretary of the Disaster Control Committee when it is set up.

Technical Advisory Board

IN addition to the agencies mentioned to serve on the Disaster Control Committee proper, there are a considerable number of agencies which will work closely with the Disaster Control Committee and it is suggested that they be tied into the direction of the plan as a Technical Advisory Board. The following list is not necessarily exclusive but was submitted by Mr. Kintz as a check list to make sure that certain important agencies are appropriately tied into the disaster plan.

Fire Chiefs
Fire prevention engineers
Safety engineers
Power company engineers
Gas plant engineers
Telephone company engineers
Local radio station managers
Local railroad and bus line managers
Regional representatives of the Interstate Commerce Commission
Truck lines representatives
Air lines representatives
Contractors and architects representatives
Labor representatives
Undertakers representatives
Water, and other city or county departments
Chemical, mining, electrical, petroleum, explosives or other engineers
Boy and Girl Scouts representatives
Hotels representatives
Banks representatives
Insurance representaeives
Persons qualified to recruit qualified personnel

Operating Boards. Some of the operating agencies which would play an important part in disaster plans are already established but in other cases special agencies would have to be set up to perform certain functions. Mr. Kintz suggests these be referred to as Operating Boards. The functions he enumerates form a valuable check list of the things to be done and suggestions as to who might do them.

Texas State Fair Features Fire Pumper Hook-up Competition

Chief C. N. Penn of Dallas Fire Department (in Civilian clothes) presents first place trophy to Chief Cochnell of Mesquite winner of the pumper hook-up competition at the 1948 Texas State Fair.

THE second annual pumper hook-up races for volunteer firemen were held at the State Fair of Texas, Sunday afternoon, October 17. Teams from twelve volunteer fire departments which are members of the North Texas Firemen's Association competed for a trophy and plaque offered by the State Fair. In spite of a brisk north wind and the first cold spell of the season very good time was made by most teams. A six-man team from Mesquite made the hook-up in 22.1 seconds to win first place, with the team from McKinney winning second prize with a time of 23.6 seconds. The state record for this hook-up is 17 seconds. With interest in these races increasing, plans are being made to open the competition to all volunteer departments in the State of Texas during a "Firemen's Day" at the 1949 State Fair. ★ ★ ★ ★

Fire Control. The fire department is one of the emergency agencies already established and accustomed to dealing with fires and other unusual happenings on an emergency basis. The fire control set-up would, in a local plan, be under the direction of the fire chief.

Police. Police activities would normally be in charge of the police agency having authority. One of its duties might be the registration of all persons in the disaster area or coming into it.

Recovery and Rescue. A recovery and rescue board would be in charge of recovering injured and dead and their identification, also in recovering damaged property. This agency would include a supervisor of identification to work with the medical authorities. It would establish methods of obtaining information concerning disaster victims.

Medical. It would be the responsibility of a medical agency to secure the necessary physicians, surgeons, nurses and other specialists to provide medical services generally, and necessary supplies and medical personnel who would work with the recovery and rescue board.

Hospital. A hospital operating board would cooperate with the medical board and be responsible for arranging for first aid rooms, temporary hospitals, places in city hospitals and hospital supplies and facilities generally.

Safety. A board of qualified safety engineers would assist in numerous ways to provide safety of operations and workers. This basis of disaster planning is one which is sometimes overlooked. For example, it would provide for inspecting scaffolds and other structures to insure safety of workmen. It would insure the use of personal protective equipment such as respiratory devices and protective clothing. Unless there is a building department to perform the function, it would inspect buildings and structures for structural safety. In cases where such facilities are not available through the fire department, it would arrange for tests of tanks, buildings, vessels, or areas for flammable and toxic atmospheres.

Relief. A board assigned to relief would have very broad responsibilities. One of these of major importance in most disasters, but for which there is normally no provision, is to furnish food and lodging for volunteer and other working personnel. It would operate a first aid and ambulance service, if this is not provided for by the rescue and recovery board. The relief board would be a means to insure the cooperation of recognized relief agencies and to serve disaster victims and volunteer and other working personnel.

Communications. A board would be assigned to insuring orderly communication facilities, including telephone, telegraph, radio and messenger service.

Transportation. A transportation board would assist the recovery board to obtain necessary vehicles for the transportation of supplies, workers and materials and for other transportation needs.

Supplies. A board in charge of supply work would secure requested or needed supplies and would maintain liaison with the transportation and other boards.

Public Utilities. The various public utilities have personnel qualified technically to be of great assistance and a board to coordinate public utility service is needed.

Health, Sanitation and Decontamination. A board would have charge of health, sanitation and decontamination. Its responsibility would be to see that the disaster does not bring about some public health or personal health hazard. It would, for example, see that all relief workers and persons in the disaster area take necessary precautions to perpetuate or restore satisfactory sanitation and healthful living conditions. One important

Continued on page 16

T. Alfred Fleming, Director of Conservation of the National Board of Fire Underwriters and Chairman of NFPA Committee on Fire Prevention and Clean Up Campaign joins Chief Connie O'Sullivan of the Memphis Fire Department in a radio interview during Fire Prevention Week. Memphis is noted as a consistent winner of national awards for fire prevention activity.

A Convenient Skid Load for Small Fire Departments

GEORGE ORGAIN, Oklahoma Fire Service Instructor calls attention to a new skid load for 1½-in. hose demonstrated at the Oklahoma fire school this year. This load was developed cooperatively by Chief Bruce Caveny of Midwest City, Oklahoma, and Field Instructor William A. Morris. Midwest City has a small fire department with only two paid firemen on duty. Therefore, it was necessary to work out some means whereby two men could get the first line advanced and leave the second line ready for use as soon as volunteer firemen arrived.

The photographs on the next page show how this load is assembled. However, Mr. Orgain calls attention to the fact that the doughnut roll is incorrectly made in photo No. 3. The male coupling should be inside the doughnut where the threads will be protected and not outside as shown.

It should be noticed in the second picture that the wye attached to the 2½-in. hose is run over the loop formed by the skids. This prevents the runners from being pulled out from under the 1½-in. lines.

In using this load, one man pulls off the skid, and as soon as the driver has made a hydrant connection the line is charged to the gated wye. The pipeman then advances the first 1½-in. line consisting of the two doughnut rolls with nozzle attached. As soon as volunteers arrive the second 1½-in. skid load which was under the doughnuts is placed in operation.

One improvement that might be made to the evolution would be to use an "all-purpose" fog-straight stream nozzle on at least the first line. However, unless the pumper is going to be used there might not be adequate pressure for most effective fog operation which should have 80 to 100 pounds at the nozzle.

It would also be possible to use a gated "water thief" having a 2½-in. outlet to permit use of a 2½-in. stream from the pumper when sufficient manpower arrived. However, this again would depend upon the amount of water available as 300 to 400 gpm would be necessary to supply two 1½-in. leader lines and a 2½-in. line with 1-in. tip. (See FIREMEN for November 1946, page 7; May 1947, page 10, 11; and October 1947, page 12.)

★ ★ ★

1. Finishing 2½-in. hose load with skid load finish to carry 1½-in. leader lines.

2. The first line of 1½-in. hose from gated wye is riprapped across 2½-in. skids.

3. First doughnut of second 1½-in. line placed atop skid load. The male coupling of bottom doughnut should be inside, not outside as shown.

4. Finished load which one man can drop off at fire. The nozzle attached to the doughnut is advanced first, then second line as soon as help arrives.

Recent Important Fires Emphasize Need for

The public must also be told that large value requir
equipment if fire departments are to have ad even cl

Waco, Texas, Sept. 27. *Jimmie Willis photo*

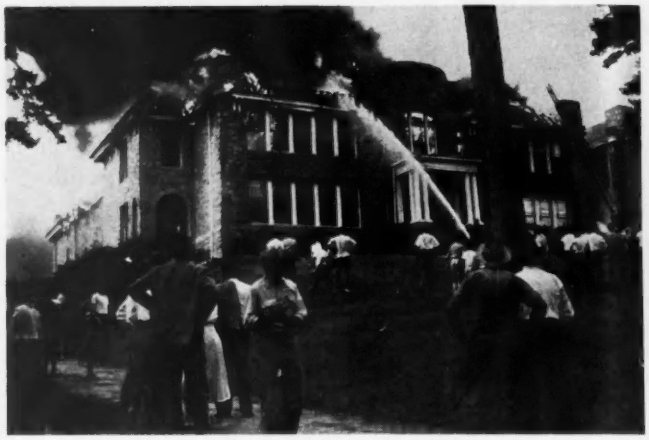
This two story J. C. Penny Co. store building unprotected by automatic sprinkler or alarm service was gutted by an early morning fire for the second time in a little over six years. Firemen used 16 streams from 6 pumpers for an hour before they could control the flames. Fire walls, fire doors, and window shutters protected adjoining buildings. Loss: $300,000.

Stratford, Ontario, Sept. 16. *Beacon-Herald*

The second floor of this 2-story unsprinklered piston ring factory was destroyed when flammable cleaning fluid being heated in a non-cutoff area ignited. After an unsuccessful attempt to control the flammable liquid fire with Class A extinguishers, employees phoned the fire department which extinguished the flames with 7 pumper and 2 hydrant streams. A supposed fire wall failed to hold as flames followed projecting timbers. Loss estimate: $350,000.

Old Orchard Beach, Maine, Oct. 3. *Biddeford Journal*

An entire block of amusement concessions of wooden construction were destroyed by a mysterious Sunday afternoon fire a month after the resort season ended. Burned in the blaze was an "old mill" where the flames were discovered, roller coaster, arcade, restaurant, bath house, several stores and summer cottages. Automatic sprinklers saved an exposed ballroom. Firemen from Biddeford, Portland, Saco, and Scarborough assisted local fire fighters. Loss estimated: $250,000.



Fulton County, Georgia, Sept. 17. *Hugh Stovall*

The E. Rivers School outside of Atlanta was destroyed by fire after a custodian burned a wasps' nest under the eaves. Smoke was observed shortly after school was out for the day. County firemen took a line into the attic over the 24-room structure but were driven out before help arrived from Atlanta. Sixteen pieces of apparatus were mobilized but limited water supplies made it impossible to prevent a $250,000 loss.

New York, N. Y., Sept. 28. *Acme*

This 5-alarm fire, discovered by a citizen shortly before midnight, destroyed a New York Central Railroad freight warehouse and damaged nearby trucks and railroad cars. Chief of Staff and Operations Frank Murphy reports that 23 engine and 4 ladder companies fought the fire with 31 hose and fireboat streams. A heavy "body of fire" was through the roof when the apparatus arrived.

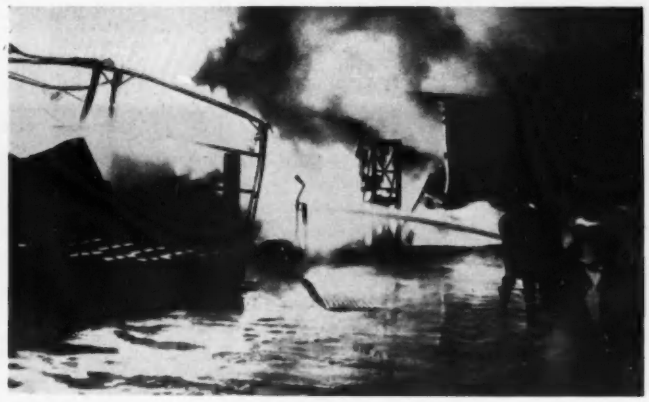
Pennsylvania Turnpike, Oct. 21. *Wide World*

Five trailer trucks collided on the Pennsylvania Turnpike running between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. The accident occurred during a heavy fog. Three of the trucks caught fire. One driver was trapped and burned fatally and two others were injured.

Need for Continuous Fire Prevention Activity

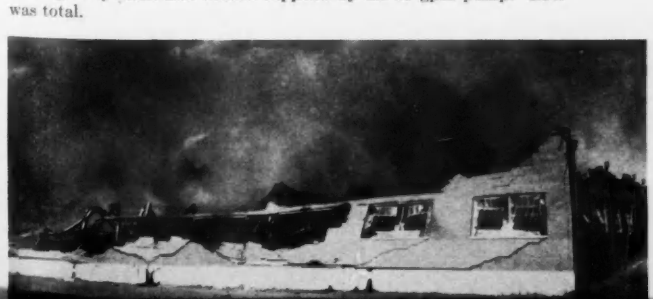
e value require automatic sprinkler and fire detection
ave an even chance in protecting life and property.

Louisville, Kentucky, Sept. 15. *Courier-Journal*
Unnoticed by 90 persons working below, fire involved the fourth and fifth floors of this unsprinklered paper box factory. Outside window sprinklers, manually operated, protected an adjoining furniture warehouse. Loss: $271,000.



Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 21. *Acme*
An unexplained explosion started an early morning fire in this bulk gasoline station of the Sun Oil Company while tank trucks were being loaded. The source of ignition is not known but may have been ignition of gasoline vapors from by a nearby boiler fire. Fire department used water streams and foam to protect large gasoline storage tanks nearby. Loss $85,000.

near Durham, North Carolina, Oct. 7. *Herald-Sun*
This $1,000,000 unsprinklered warehouse, covering 3 acres of undivided fire area and containing 2½ million dollars worth of food stuffs, was erected outside the city where land was cheap, but was 9 miles from the nearest fire station. Watchman discovered fire on an outside platform at 2:45 A.M. and used chemicals for half an hour before phoning the Durham Fire Department. The only water supplies were a small gravity tank and cistern supplied by an 80 gpm pump. Loss was total.



St. Louis, Missouri, Oct. 1. *Acme*
This plant of brick wall, wood-joisted construction made fire doors before a five-alarm fire broke out at 12:25 A.M. There was no watchman and when a railroad switchman saw the fire the large area building was seriously involved. The fire marshal's office had recommended automatic sprinklers for this plant on several occasions. Twenty-nine hose streams were used. Sprinklers operated in an exposed building. Loss: $150,000.

Kelowna, British Columbia, Sept. 20.
A huge cold storage warehouse under construction included two sections totalling 328 ft. long, and adjoining other portions of the Kelowna Fruit Growers' Exchange plant. Fire started in a cockloft into which shavings were blown for insulation. Firemen vented the roof but, unable to work in the cockloft, employed cellar and spray nozzles through the roof until driven off by imminent collapse. They were remarkably successful in preventing extension of fire to large adjoining sections of the plant, using a 2½-in. fog nozzle to cover an unprotected door opening. Seven streams were pumped from 2 hydrants and a nearby drainage ditch. Loss $159,800.

Kansas City, Kansas, Oct. 29. *Acme*
This fire followed an explosion of a fuel oil tank at the Colgate Palmolive Peet Company plant. The roof of the tank was thrown 145 feet and electric service interrupted in nearby areas.

THE *New* **Beacon Ray Light**

Extra **VISIBILITY... from every angle**
Beacon Ray beams rotate through full 360°

Extra **STRENGTH...**
Beacon Ray emits two powerful signal beams (180° apart)

Extra **360° PROTECTION...running or parking**
Full rotation provides "area warning" regardless of vehicle position.

Federal Enterprises' new Beacon Ray Light is Extra in every respect. New through and through, this advanced design warning light is an entirely new concept in effective signalling equipment.

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BATTLE CREEK • MICHIGAN
Makers of Barton-American Mid-Ship & Front Mounted Fire Pumps
IN CANADA: C. E. Hickey & Sons, Limited, Hamilton, Ontario

A Delayed Alarm—Almost!

The October 1947 FIREMEN, *page 11, described an alarm system for country grain elevators. "Our Paper" published by the Grain Dealers National Mutual Fire Insurance Company reports a recent instance where such a system operated with the interesting results reported below:*

"The cupola alarm system functioned perfectly — and before the fire had reached serious proportions. But the fire department did not respond, notwithstanding the fire station was but two blocks distant and a fireman on duty heard the siren. It appears that at the time the alarm was tested, immediately following its installation, the fire chief told the mill employees it would not be necessary for them to telephone in an alarm because the sound of the siren could be heard at the fire house. And so they didn't phone. But at the time of the fire, wind conditions were such that the sound appeared to be coming from the direction opposite to that of the elevator. As a result the fireman hearing the siren remarked to a passerby that 'an ambulance must be passing through town.' Peculiarly enough, the chief who was enjoying an afternoon's fishing trip at a lake two or three miles away did hear the siren and recognized it for what it was. All of which serves to emphasize the importance of calling the fire department whenever there is evidence of fire. No matter that there may be an automatic alarm howling its head off, no matter that you are sure you can handle the fire yourself, no matter that you may not have actually found the blaze but only smelled the smoke — *play safe and call the fire department.* It's their job to answer fire alarms and they won't criticize anybody for calling them if there is reasonable cause for so doing."

A Disaster Plan for Your Community

Continued from page 12

duty would be to make certain that the drinking water is not contaminated.

Information. At the time of the disaster there is a great need for accurate information to the public outside of the disaster area, to persons in the area, and to the families and friends of persons injured or likely to be involved in the disaster. It is suggested that an information board handle all news releases to supply accurate information.

Insurance. An emergency insurance board would have the responsibility for assembling necessary information in order that insurance companies may efficiently adjust losses.

Financial. A financial board should handle contributions, expenses, and account for them.

Air Patrol. An air patrol board would supervise air traffic, over or into the dangerous area.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

IN December of 1943, there were in the Volunteer Fire Company Section of the National Fire Protection Association, 996 departments with 17,908 men enrolled to receive FIREMEN. At the present time there are 1,344 departments with 21,218 men enrolled. This is an increase of 35% and 18.5% respectively. Members are reminded that there may be several non-member departments in your neighboring communities. Why not urge them to join the Volunteer Fire Company Section and profit from the material appearing in NFPA publications that may be very helpful in preparing the inside winter training programs.

New members of the Section are:

Armor Fire Co., Hamburg, N. Y.
Clayton Fire Co., No. 1, Clayton, Del.
Dexter Vol. Fire Dept., Dexter, Mich.
Hampden Vol. Fire Dept., Hampden, Me.
National Gypsum Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.
Scottsville Vol. Fire Dept., Scottsville, Va.
Trevose Fire Co., Trevose, Pa.
Waverly Fire Dept., Waverly, Ohio
Westerville Fire Dept., Westerville, Okla.
West Side Vol. Fire Fighter, Inc., St. Albans, W. Va.

National Fire Protection Association, International

Associate Membership

VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY SECTION ($12.50 annual dues) Eligible:

(1) all bona fide volunteer fire organizations in any community.

(2) all fire departments and companies in communities of less than 25,000 population.

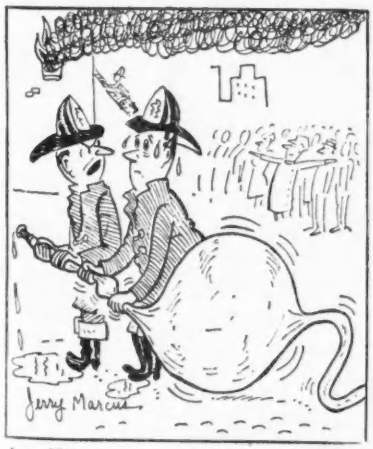
(3) all industrial fire brigades.

Member volunteer fire companies receive ten copies of FIREMEN magazine each month, mailed to the homes of individual firemen. Beyond the ten, additional copies of FIREMEN cost $1 per year.

Volunteer Fire Company Section members, receive, at their headquarters, one copy of all publications sent to NFPA associate members.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ($12.50 annual dues) Eligible: Individual fire department officers, firemen, and others interested in fire safety. NFPA associate members in the fire service receive: one copy of FIREMEN magazine monthly, the NFPA **Quarterly**, the monthly **News Letter**, technical standards, popular bulletins and posters.

All associate members have one vote in Association affairs.



Jerry Marcus *The Amarillo Daily News*

"I know this is your first fire, Brogan, but try not to be so tense!"

The Original MIDWESTERN Yellow Striped Safety Coat Is Again Available . . .

for Men of Action!

Here's Protection and Comfort in Your Hazardous Work of Safeguarding Life and Property Against FIRE!

Modern fire fighting calls for *specialized* protective clothing . . . clothing that safeguards the fireman's life on every run . . . clothing that enables him to use his equipment to the fullest advantage.

Every Midwestern product combines the thoughts and suggestions of practical Fire Chiefs and firemen from every section of the country . . . and every purchaser profits from years of Midwestern research and experience. That is why the famous Mackinaw Coat and other Midwestern clothing have embodied in their design every feature necessary for the protection and comfort of firemen.

In our vast selection of crude rubber materials you will find a type of fabric suitable for your climate and needs. The softness and flexibility in the high-grade materials used are your assurance of long time service and comfort. Many Fire Chiefs are now including Midwestern clothing in their regular yearly budget and by placing your order early you can be assured of this adequate protection when needed.

For complete information have your Midwestern dealer show you our new garments now manufactured from crude rubber compounds. A letter to the factory will also bring you material samples for your inspection.

We now have available: White, Ivory and Brown crude rubber coats for Chiefs, Assistants and other officers; also all sizes short and ¾ length felt lined Firemen's boots for immediate shipment.

NONE GENUINE WITHOUT THIS TRADE MARK

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Manufacturers of the Famous **MACKINAW Coats**

TURN YOUR SPARE TIME INTO PROFITS
$84.00 A WEEK FROM 2 SALES A DAY

***Sell* RANDOLPH Fire Extinguishers**

Every building holds a prospect — Homes, Boats, Cars, Garages, Gas Stations, Shops, Laundries, Farms, Hotels, Stores, Factories.

THEY WANT A RANDOLPH with its panic-proof trigger action that smothers the fire instantly in a snowy blanket of carbon dioxide. No mess, no water, no damage, even to food. It evaporates without a trace.

YOU CAN QUALIFY for exclusive territory to sell the famous, nationally advertised Randolph used by leading industrial concerns everywhere.

Approved by Underwriters' Laboratories

Quick profits await those who act at once. Four sales a day net $168.00 a week. Write today for full or part-time plan, territories, demonstration kit, etc. Don't delay.

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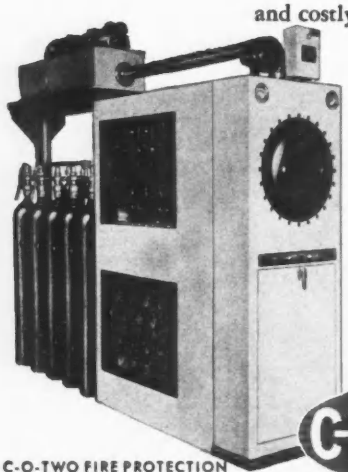
C-O-Two helped a leading department store solve a fire protection problem

Fire, even a small one, can spread rapidly . . . create panic . . . loss of good will, equipment, buildings and human lives.

Twenty of the electric stairways at Marshall Field & Company in Chicago are now protected from fire by C-O-TWO. Little chance of cigarette butts, matches, overheated motors, or short circuited electrical equipment starting a disastrous fire. The C-O-TWO Combination Smoke Detecting and Fire Extinguishing System automatically detects smoke in the machinery room and the housing of these electric stairways. Upon a signal, non-damaging carbon dioxide is released into the threatened area, controlling the fire before panic and costly damage takes place.



C-O-TWO FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT INSTALLED AT THE MAIN FIRE STATION
left to right — carbon dioxide cylinders, blowers, control valve cabinet and smoke detecting cabinet.

Whether your fire protection problem is a store, factory, ship or power plant, an expert C-O-TWO Fire Protection Engineer can help you plan and install adequate fire protection equipment.

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California Fire Training Report

THE annual report of the California Fire Training Program covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 1948 has been received from Thomas S. Ward, Supervisor of Fire Training, who is assisted by traveling instructors Carl J. Kistle and Ward L. Cockerton. A total of 2556 men were registered for 2023 hours of instruction. Of these, 998 men from 102 departments attended 45 zone schools and 1558 men attended 86 departmental classes. The report does not include numerous local training programs unless actual instruction was done by members of the State Fire Training Staff. Training was given during the year in the following subjects: Use and care of fire apparatus and equipment; water supply and control; fire control; salvage operations; motor vehicle and pump operation; first aid and life saving operations; company administration; and instructor training.

Montana Firemen's School

CHIEF Clayton Brown of the Polson Volunteer Fire Department reports that 56 firemen were registered at the Ninth Annual Montana State Firemen's School held at Polson, October 6–9. Some men traveled as far as 700 miles to attend. The Montana State Department of Vocational Education helped to defray the cost of two fire instructors. The dates for the Tenth Annual Firemen's School have been set for September 7–10, 1949.

Texas Plans Fire Instructor's Conference

DIRECTOR H. R. Brayton, Texas Firemen's Training School reports that an instructors' conference is to be held in Austin, December 6–9. Invitations have been extended to 325 fire departments to have their instructors present. About half of the time will be spent in outside work at the drill tower and half will be devoted to inside discussion featuring exchange of ideas from all parts of the state.

Two Massachusetts Cities Vote 48 Hour Week for Firemen

DURING the November election two Massachusetts cities granted firemen a 48-hour week by local referendum. Newton firemen won by 20,048 votes for and 15,950 against. Woburn firemen won by 2,825 to 2,199. In the towns of Brookline and Winchester the firemen lost by a narrow margin. In Brookline the vote was 10,334 yes, 11,996 no. In Winchester the vote was 2,988 yes, 3,059 no. In most of the larger cities of Massachusetts the firemen won the 48-hour week during the 1946 elections.

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Flowing, racket-like lines of modern beauty; enhanced by chrome appointments; complete roominess for proper invalid care; overall sturdiness for lasting service . . . these features predominate. Heretofore such magnificent utility has been unattainable.

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THE FIRE HOUSE COFFEE POT

Digest of article by Stanley E. Halfhill in The Firemen's Grapevine, published by the Los Angeles Firemen's Relief Association, Inc.

COFFEE, that black scalding liquid conducive to ulcers, indisposition and nerves, is the fireman's stand-by. He will drink it morning, noon and night, and sixteen times between-times. The between-times, like Rip Van Winkle when he was trying to quit drinking — don't count — for as Rip said, "We won't count this one."

A fireman must have coffee. He will drink it out of old broken or cracked cups, brown with the stains of many a pot, rinse it under the hot tap and toss it back in the locker. He will even drink it out of a glass with a spoon in it, flipping a forefinger over the spoon handle as the black brew is gullet-bound, to hold the spoon out of the way and out of the eyes. With such precaution, we've never lost an eye on the Department in forty years.

He will douse the black stuff with any kind of cream or milk or canned cow, to be found setting around on the galley table and no questions asked. He will forage for sugar and be only too happy to find some belonging to a sensitive soul — and use an extra spoonful. More galley wars have been fought over sugar, and more coffee clubs broken up as a result, than for such minor but continual questions as to whether the three cup man and the ten cup man should pay the same dues.

Even the Ladies of Administration have a coffee club, but the atmosphere of their spotless kitchen is not relaxing. A fire house Joe is inclined to step around lightly, on those rare occasions when invited therein — the feminine presence gives Joe an uneasy feeling just like he was home and Mom had just waxed the kitchen floor. Besides, they actually use a dish-pan and wash their cups with *soap*. But coffee clubs are losing their individual character. In all the big fire houses they have become standardized with glass pots on little individual stainless steel stoves and nearby are rows upon rows of *clean* cups reposing on an outspread and *laundered* towel. The coffee-club-man buys coffee by the carton and collects enough dough each payday to fill a couple of tomato cans. Joe is getting his coffee in style, nowadays.

Someday progress may even come to Training (Fire Department Training Division) but we hope not. A couple of years ago when a group of officers, fresh from the fire house, were doing a job for Training some wag started screaming for coffee along about 11 o'clock every morning. In desperation, a Training officer wangled some extra cups from the Ladies of Administration, an old granite pot, and a hot plate. Faithful clerk Erickson supplied a "tea wagon" in the shape of a double-decked monstrosity made out of two-by-fours and planking and mounted on wheels. An OCD bucket was garnered from unsuspecting 3s. Anyway the whole ensemble was finally activated and the steaming pot was rolled down the fourth floor corridor and the poor engine house addicts fed a cup of the old black mud.

Today the "Class in Advanced Thinking" daily gathers around the table in front of the tea wagon each with a sack of lunch and somebody puts on a pot. The conversation runs the gamut of "shop" to the atomic age and finally, sometimes, even to that *inevitable* engine house topic. The old OCD bucket is full of water and dimly seen through the green scum on top are the cups. Membership in this coffee club consists of having the strength of viscera to kick back the scum, choose a cup (the one with the handle unless someone has beat you to it) give it a swipe with a rag to be found hanging on the side of the tea wagon — unless Erick happens to be using it to wipe off the stenciling machine — and pour yourself a cup, chum. A fireman has got to have his cup of coffee, hasn't he?

★ ★ ★

London Fire Chief Visits California

Fire Prevention Week in Inglewood, California, was marked by a visit of Chief Fire Officer F. W. Delve of London, England, who was presented an honorary chief's badge by Chief Bacil A. Roberts of Inglewood. Chief Delve also visited the fire departments of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Beverly Hills, and was an honored guest at a cocktail party given by President Walter Keefe of the Inglewood Chamber of Commerce, attended by 25 fire chiefs from surrounding cities.

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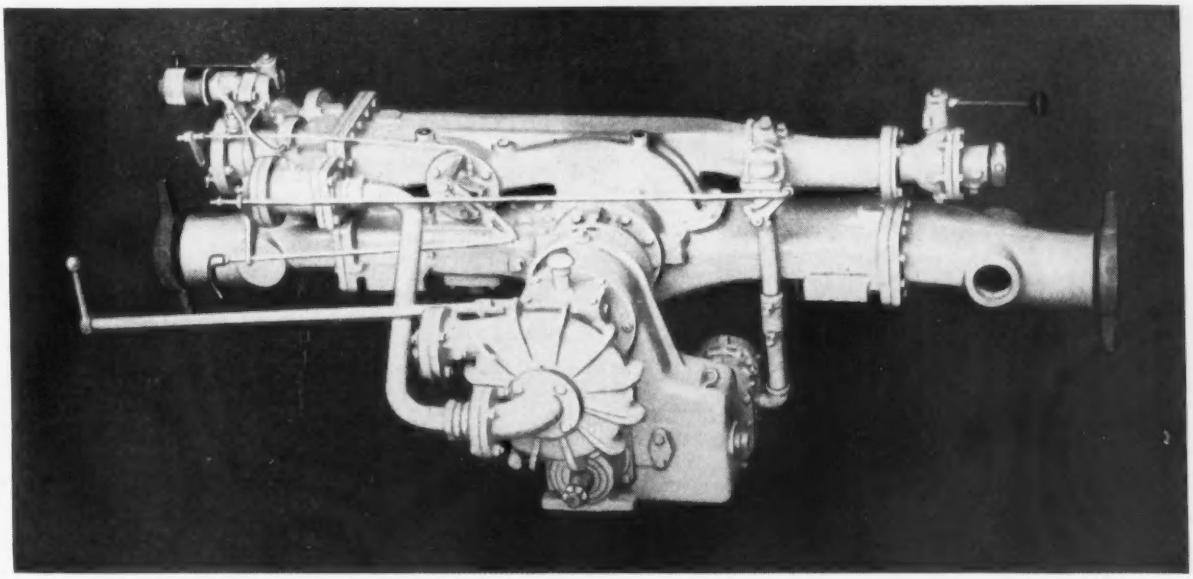

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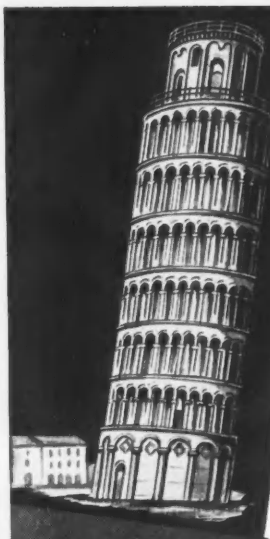

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New NFPA Building Exits Code

THE NFPA has issued a Ninth Edition of the Building Exits Code, the standard for life safety from fire in buildings since 1913. The new Ninth Edition of 120 pages, available from the NFPA Executive Office at $1 per copy, contains major revisions of Chapter 8, Moving Stairways (formerly Escalators); Chapter 26, Hotels (formerly Hotels and Apartment Houses); and a new Chapter 28, Apartment Houses. The Building Exits Code is the recognized standard for life safety from fire in Schools, Department Stores, Factories, Hospitals, Sanitariums, Corrective Institutions, Hotels, Office Buildings, Apartment Houses, and other places of Public Assembly.

Bulletin on Windowless Buildings

THE Inspection Department, Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, 184 High Street, Boston, Mass., has issued a 4 pp. illustrated bulletin "Fire Safety for Windowless Buildings." This is one of the best presentations of this subject of so much concern to fire fighters in communities where the walls of a number of mercantile and industrial buildings have been enclosed eliminating window openings as a means of access for fire fighting and rescue. Single copies of the Bulletin (No. 8.24) are available upon request to the Factory Mutual Inspection Department.

Out of City Fire Protection Service Practices in Major Cities

THE United States Conference of Mayors, 730 Jackson Place, N.W. Washington, D. C., has issued a 21-page Research Report No. 297 giving "Out of City Fire Protection Service Policies and Practices in 132 Major Cities." Reports from individual cities and sample contracts are included. Fifty-five cities charge for outside calls, 37 cities give outside assistance without charge, 29 cities have mutual aid agreements with neighbors and a few cities do not give outside aid.

Outside Fire Protection Practices in Michigan Municipalities

A 36 page bulletin by the above title has been issued by the Michigan Municipal League, 205 South State Street, Ann Arbor, as Information Bulletin No. 55, available at $1 per copy. Of 193 departments reported as furnishing outside aid, 36 percent had formal written contracts, 24 percent had mutual aid agreements, and 34 percent had informal agreements. Seven percent reported joint fire departments serving municipal and outside areas.

FIRE departments will be doing all they can to make Christmas and the New Year the traditionally happy holiday seasons they should be. Fortunately, after many years of effort, the public has been to a large extent educated against the great hazard that existed when open flame candles were widely used on Christmas trees. Electrical wiring for decorative purposes may be dangerous if installed in disregard to elementary safe-wiring practices. Frayed or otherwise faulty extension cords and light sets should be replaced with new equipment bearing labels of Underwriters' Laboratories. Christmas trees in many localities have been cut for several weeks prior to appearance on the market and by the time they are set up in homes may be "tinder dry," susceptible to the smallest flame or spark. Fresh trees should be brought in the home as short a time before Christmas as possible and removed as soon as the holiday season is passed. Trees should be kept away from all sources of heat and placed where they cannot block stairways or exits in event of fire.

It is the job of the fire department to encourage safety precautions among the people of their community. It is impossible to lay too much stress upon the great life hazards that may be introduced into the home at this time by unusual amounts of combustible material. A reminder from the fire department may do much to make people realize that the lives of loved ones are at stake.

In Santa Monica, Calif., last December 25 two children were burned to death, their parents hospitalized and their house gutted by a Christmas tree fire. In Montreal, Que., on December 29, 1947 a five-month old baby was suffocated by smoke and three families rendered homeless by fire, caused by a short circuit in the Christmas tree wiring.

A handy circular for fire departments to send out to their community is the National Fire Protection Association's Christmas folder,* the cover of which is shown at the left.

Another responsibility of the fire department, particularly the fire prevention bureau, is to see that the crowds that pack into store buildings during the last minutes of the Christmas shopping rush are protected against the dangers of fire and panic. Packing materials and other forms of rubbish which accumulate so rapidly during the business rush must be disposed of promptly. Aisles must be kept clear, exits properly marked, and emergency lighting provided. It is important to check up on the first aid fire equipment in the stores.

Another hazard that should be pointed out is that of the great quantity of materials used for decoration unless adequately flameproofed in dance halls, clubs and other public places. The NFPA pamphlet "Flameproofing of Textiles," price 20¢ contains recommendations for controlling hazards of flammable decorations that have contributed to a number of fatal fires.

**Obtainable from the Publications Department, National Fire Protection Association, 60 Batterymarch St., Boston 10, Mass., at $2 per hundred, $17.50 per thousand.*

A typical Christmas tree fire occurred on Jan. 2, 1948 in an Adams, Mass., dwelling. This shows the hazard of not removing the tree promptly after Christmas. Three children, alone in the house, were dismantling the tree, but had left the lights on until the last. A flash occurred enveloping the tree in flames. The children fortunately escaped, but the picture shows how flames cut off the stairway until the fire department controlled the fire. The loss was adjusted at $3,810.

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MANUFACTURERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The General Detroit Corporation Established in Windsor, Ont.

THE General Detroit Corp. has announced manufacturing operations in a new plant. This new factory is located in Windsor, Ont., and is known as The General Detroit Corp., Canada, Ltd. General Manager of the Canadian operations is R. L. Weir. In addition to the Windsor plant and sales headquarters, Canadian branch offices have been established in Toronto, Montreal, and Winnepeg.

The General Detroit Corp. manufactures a complete line of portable fire extinguishers including vaporizing liquid, carbon dioxide, soda-acid, foam, pump, and non-freeze types, as well as safety and non-freeze types, fire hose, and motor fire apparatus.

One Fire in 2,700,000 Motor Miles

IN over 2,700,000 motor miles, the United Nations' fleet of 22 Buicks, 2 larger limousines, 5 motorcycles and 10 trucks have had only one fire, this being caused by a carelessly dropped cigarette, and quickly extinguished by the chauffeur with a one-quart Pyrene extinguisher. Every one of the U. N. vehicles is equipped with one of these one-quart vaporizing liquid type extinguishers. All chauffeurs are well trained in the use of the extinguishers and other safety measures under the direction of L. R. Mayan, Safety Engineer at Lake Success. E. G. Moore, Chief of Local Transportation at U. N. announced that fire protection helps in keeping costs down by preventing any undue property or equipment loss.

Road Sander for Fire Trucks

A NEW road sander unit for individual fire truck installation, insuring more dependable operation on icy winter roads, is announced by Highway Safety Appliances, Inc., manufacturer of the Elston Electric Road Sander. Roads can be traveled more quickly and safely by sander equipped vehicles even under extreme ice and snow conditions, according to officials of the St. Paul, Minn. company. Their road sanders are designed to deposit specially prepared grit through non-freezing nozzles in front of the driving wheels to provide instant traction at the vital point where tires and road surface meet for safer stops, starts and skid control. In an emergency the driver simply touches a dash-mounted switch which electrically operates solenoid valves in the twin grit hoppers installed on the chassis over the drying wheels. The manufacturer claims that this vital safety equipment saves lives, speeds truck operations, saves tires, gasoline, oil, motors, and transmissions.

Small Reo wanted for parts for maintaining pumper on Speedwagon 1¼ ton chassis, about 1923. Present pump Hale 300 gpm rotary. Address Commissioner H. B. Clark, North Granby, Conn.

W. S. Darley & Co., Catalogue

A NEW 100-page catalogue of fire fighting equipment has been announced by W. S. Darley & Co., of 2810 Washington Boulevard, Chicago 12, Ill. This attractive book contains reference to almost every piece of equipment used by fire departments, large or small. It is profusely illustrated showing many products in great detail. This catalogue is available to any interested fire chief upon request to the manufacturer.

"M.S.A. Pneophore" Announced

A NEW apparatus for treating pulmonary disorders resulting from exposure to certain chemicals, gas or superheated air in industrial processes has been announced by Mine Safety Appliances Co., of Pittsburg, Pa. It is also used for emergency cases of asphyxiation and is accepted by the Council on Physical Medicine of the American Medical Association.

A portable instrument, consisting mainly of three valves, two gauges, rubber tubing and facepieces, it differs from a resuscitator in that it administers oxygen with intermittent positive pressure only. Suction that might damage lung tissues or other parts of the respiratory systemis eliminated. The instrument may be used on any oxygen cylinder with a standard thread.

Catalogue by Duo-Safety Ladder Corp.

A NEW 10-page catalogue has been announced by the Duo-Safety Ladder Corp., of 809 Ninth St., Oshkosh, Wis. This attractive two-color magazine illustrates all aluminum ladders for pumpers and service trucks including one, two and three section, wall ladders, and one section roof ladder; folding ladders; and pompiers or scaling ladders available in 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 20-foot lengths. These all aluminum ladders are of channel and tubular rails with extruded tubing rungs. Also illustrated are wooden ladders of solid side and duo truss construction of various specifications. Wooden folding ladders, pompiers, and extendable roof ladders are also shown.

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Hydrant performance	Feb.	8
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Iowa: County fire schools	Nov.	12
Ladder evolutions, photos	Dec.	6
Leather warehouse fire: Boston, Mass.	Mar.	9
Los Angeles County: tank pumper	Nov.	24
Lumber yard fires: Allison Park, Pa.	Oct.	12
Bridgeport, Conn.	June	9
Marysville, Calif.	June	9
Mascots	Aug. 8, Sept.	7
Mercantile fires: Cornwall, Ont.	Feb.	12
Durango, Colo.	April	9
Pittsburg, Pa.	April	9
Reno, Nev.	Oct.	12
San Francisco, Calif.	Aug.	12
Trenton, N. J.	April	9
Washington, D. C.	Mar.	9
Metal worker fires: Cudahy, Wis.	Sept.	13
New York, N. Y.	Sept.	13
Stratford, Ont.	Dec.	14
Motorcraft fire: Chicago, Ill.	Aug.	13
Mutual aid: Montgomery County, Md.	Aug.	12
New York State	June	10
National Fire Protection Association:		
Annual meeting, Washington, D. C.	July	6
Joint Evolutions Committee	Dec.	6
Northeastern Fire Protection Conference	Oct. 14, Dec.	6
Volunteer Fire Company Section; edit.	Sept.	5
New Haven, Conn.; rebuilding of fire department	Jan. 6, Feb.	6
New York State: Firemen's Home; cover photo, edit.	April	5
Nozzle tip pressures	Oct.	9
Office building fire: Cambridge, Ohio	Feb.	12
Oil Refinery fires: El Segundo, Calif.	June	9
Inglewood, Calif.	Nov. 26, Dec.	7
Lebec, Calif.	Oct.	12
Louisville, Ky.	Sept.	13
Oklahoma City, Okla.	Mar.	9
Oklahoma A. & M. College: Oldest building; edit.	Mar.	5
Ten years of fire protection training	Dec.	10
Out-of-city aid	Dec.	22
Overboard suction	Jan.	10
Oxygen equipment explosion: Pasadena, Calif.	Mar.	14
Paper box factory fire: Louisville, Ky.	Dec.	15
Paraffin explosion: Kansas City, Kan.	Dec.	15
Pier fire: Portland, Me.	Jan.	11
Plastics plant fire: Waltham, Mass.	April	8
Newark, N. J.	Feb.	12
Printing plant fire: Norwalk, Conn.	Oct.	13
Private protection: CO^2 system for grain elevator	Nov.	13
Pump pressure chart	Oct.	18
Radio communications: West University Place, Tex.	April	6
Radio Fire patrols: Sydney, New South Wales	Sept.	17
Restaurant explosion: Nampa, Idaho, propane	Jan.	9
Riverdale, Md., pumper; edit.	Nov.	5
Roofing plant fire: Springfield, Ore.	Oct.	12
Rubber plant fire: East Rutherford, N. J.	Sept.	13
Rural fire control, Montana	Aug.	7
Salaries, firemen's; edit.	July	5
Saskatchewan, Can.: Vol. firemen training	Nov.	10
School fire: Philadelphia, Pa.	Jan.	8
Fulton County, Ga., photo	Dec.	14
West Chester, Pa.	Feb.	13
Ship fire: S.S. *Dagmar Salen*, off the Del. coast	Aug.	12
Signals: ship to shore	Feb.	14
Skid loads: 1½-in. hose	Mar.	10
for small department	Dec.	12
Soap factory fire, Kansas City, Kan.	Dec.	15
Spring firemen's training; edit.	Feb.	5
Sprinkler systems, automatic: Okla. A. & M. College	Mar.	5
Stockyard fire: South St. Paul, Minn.	Aug.	13
Tax exemptions, municipal excise	Jan.	13
Telephone exchange fire: Brockton, Mass.	June	9
Telephone decalcomania: Prince George Cty., Md.	Feb.	14
Television: Antennas, hazards of	Sept.	14
Fire news by; edit.	Dec.	5
Sets in fire stations	July	17
Fire· Lowell, Mass.	Aug.	13
Trailer camp fire: Ingelwood, Calif.	Nov.	16
Training: state program for 1947	Mar.	6
state program for 1948	Nov. 8, Dec.	18
Report of NFPA Committee on,	Aug.	10
Training instructors: edit.	June	5
Truck terminal fires: Lowell, Mass.	Aug.	13
Cleveland, Ohio	April	9
U. S. Army: fire fighting platoons	Mar.	12
Volunteer Fire Departments: Amberley Village, Ohio	April	12
Aurora, Colo.	June	8
Cambridge, Md.	Mar.	15
Central Heights, Ariz.	June	7
Dover, Del.	Nov.	5, 6
Four Corners, Md.	May	16
Glen Echo, Md.	May	6
Lakewood, N. Y.	June	8
Marion, Kan.	Oct.	10
Rothesay, N. B.	April	12
Volunteer Firemen Commemorative Stamp	April 10, Oct. 14, Nov.	5, 6
Warehouse fires: Boston, Mass.	June	9
Buffalo, N. Y.	Mar.	9
Cleveland, Ohio	Sept.	13
Durham, N. C.	Dec.	14
New York, N. Y.	Oct.	12
Pittsburg, Pa.	Aug.	12
St. Louis, Mo.	Oct.	13
Wapato, Wash.	Oct.	13
Windsor, Ont.	Nov.	16
Waterfront fire: Portland, Me.	Feb.	5
Water supplies: Rural water holes	Feb.	9
Wetting agents: edit.	Oct.	5
Windowless buildings: edit.	Aug.	5
Bulletin on	Dec.	22
Wisconsin: farm fire protection	Jan.	14
Woodworker fires: Albany, N. Y.	Sept.	12
Oakland, Calif.	Oct.	13
Oskaloosa, Iowa	Nov.	16
Price, Que.	Sept.	12
Roseburg, Ore.	Aug.	13
St. Louis, Mo.	Dec.	15
Strong, Me.	Feb.	13

PERFORMANCE that can't be imitated

THIS JOHN BEAN High-Pressure Fog Fire Fighter, mounted on an International Truck chassis, was recently delivered to Monongahela Valley Fire Department, Monongahela, Pa.

John Bean Fire Fighters carry their own water supply—provide two guns of 30 gallons each—850 pounds pump pressure. Delivered complete with all accessories.

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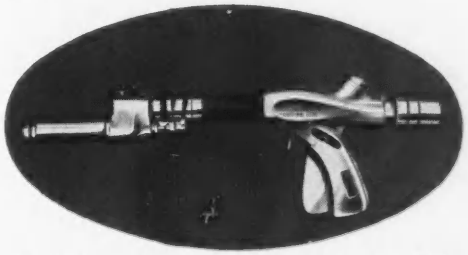
John BEAN HIGH-PRESSURE FOG FIRE FIGHTER

"Just as good as John Bean." — How often you've heard salesmen make that claim for other makes of high-pressure fog equipment!

All too often, however, fire departments purchasing such equipment have been fooled. John Bean performance can't be imitated with makeshift high-pressure units.

Be sure of constant high pressure, adequate engine power to maintain continuous and lasting fog flow. Specify a John Bean High-Pressure Fog Fire Fighter when you want *genuine* high-pressure fog.

We shall be pleased to furnish additional information on request.



The patented Bean Fog Gun. Operated at high water pressure, it gives every type of fog pattern for fire fighting. One man can operate it easily.

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BUILDERS OF BEAN HIGH-PRESSURE PUMPS FOR OVER 60 YEARS

Huge Passenger Plane Saved From Gasoline Spill Fire by New Rockwood FogFOAM Equipment

Over 1,000 gallons of gasoline flashed into a roaring fire on the ground underneath a huge DC-6 airlines passenger plane at the LaGuardia Airport recently. The airport fire fighting and crash crew quickly reached the scene and had the fire under control in a minute and a half. They put out the fire within six minutes.

The plane, gasoline truck and personnel were saved. Good fire fighting plus Rockwood's new FogFOAM equipment made this possible.*

Today, this remarkable new FogFOAM equipment will enable you to extinguish large spill fires in gasoline with speed not possible with old style chemical or mechanical foam apparatus. It protects the firemen from intense heat and fumes. This new Rockwood FogFOAM equipment will also pay for itself in a few fires by the more efficient and economical use of foam.

We recommend this new equipment to every municipal fire department for handling the increasing hazard of large gasoline spill fires resulting from tank truck crashes in your city streets. It also offers you the solution to the airplane crash fire hazard.

* Write for detailed story of this airport gasoline fire and literature on the new Rockwood FogFOAM equipment.

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